

Attorney's Docket No. K&A 00-0198  
Client's Docket No. OCI463

**APPLICATION**

**FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT**

----

**SPECIFICATION**

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT I, **CHIP B. STROUP**, a citizen of  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have invented a new and useful  
**CREDIT INFORMATION STORAGE AND TRANSFERRING**  
**DEVICE** of which the following is a specification:



# CREDIT INFORMATION STORAGE AND TRANSFERRING DEVICE

5

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

### 10 Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to debit card systems and more particularly pertains to a new credit information storage and transferring device for using one debit card for multiple credit accounts.

### Description of the Prior Art

The use of debit card systems is known in the prior art. More specifically, debit card systems heretofore devised and utilized are known to consist basically of familiar, expected and obvious structural configurations, notwithstanding the myriad of designs encompassed by the crowded prior art which have been developed for the fulfillment of countless objectives and requirements.

25

Known prior art includes U.S. Patent No. 5,276,311; U.S. Patent No. 4,700,055; U.S. Patent No. 5,857,079; U.S. Patent No. 4,816,654; U.S. Des. Patent No. 280,214; and U.S. Patent No. 5,530,232.

While these devices fulfill their respective, particular objectives and requirements, the aforementioned patents do not disclose a new credit information storage and transferring device.

5      The inventive device includes a debit card having a magnetic strip thereon for removably storing information. A memory means stores information. A plurality of input actuators inputs and retrieves information. A display displays the information inputted. A control for processing data is operationally coupled to the memory means, the input actuators and the display. A writing means writes selected information on the magnetic strip and is adapted for replacing information on the magnetic strip with a newer set of information. The writing means is operationally coupled to the control. Wherein sets of information from multiple credit accounts  
10     may be stored in the memory means so that the credit account information may be selectively written on the debit card.  
15

In these respects, the credit information storage and transferring device according to the present invention substantially departs from the conventional concepts and designs of the prior art,  
20     and in so doing provides an apparatus primarily developed for the purpose of using one debit card for multiple credit accounts.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

25     In view of the foregoing disadvantages inherent in the known types of debit card systems now present in the prior art, the present invention provides a new credit information storage and transferring device construction wherein the same can be utilized  
30     for using one debit card for multiple credit accounts.

The general purpose of the present invention, which will be described subsequently in greater detail, is to provide a new credit information storage and transferring device apparatus and method which has many of the advantages of the debit card systems mentioned heretofore and many novel features that result in a new credit information storage and transferring device which is not anticipated, rendered obvious, suggested, or even implied by any of the prior art debit card systems, either alone or in any combination thereof.

10

To attain this, the present invention generally comprises a debit card having a magnetic strip thereon for removably storing information. A memory means stores information. A plurality of input actuators inputs and retrieves information. A display displays the information inputted. A control for processing data is operationally coupled to the memory means, the input actuators and the display. A writing means writes selected information on the magnetic strip and is adapted for replacing information on the magnetic strip with a newer set of information. The writing means is operationally coupled to the control. Wherein sets of information from multiple credit accounts may be stored in the memory means so that the credit account information may be selectively written on the debit card.

25

There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the invention in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and to  
5 the arrangements of the components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose of description and  
10 should not be regarded as limiting.

As such, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the conception, upon which this disclosure is based, may readily be utilized as a basis for the designing of other structures, methods  
15 and systems for carrying out the several purposes of the present invention. It is important, therefore, that the claims be regarded as including such equivalent constructions insofar as they do not depart from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

20 Further, the purpose of the foregoing abstract is to enable the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the public generally, and especially the scientists, engineers and practitioners in the art who are not familiar with patent or legal terms or phraseology, to determine quickly from a cursory inspection the nature and essence  
25 of the technical disclosure of the application. The abstract is neither intended to define the invention of the application, which is measured by the claims, nor is it intended to be limiting as to the scope of the invention in any way.

30 It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a new credit information storage and transferring device apparatus and method which has many of the advantages of the debit card

systems mentioned heretofore and many novel features that result in a new credit information storage and transferring device which is not anticipated, rendered obvious, suggested, or even implied by any of the prior art debit card systems, either alone or in any combination thereof.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a new credit information storage and transferring device which may be easily and efficiently manufactured and marketed.

10 It is a further object of the present invention to provide a new credit information storage and transferring device which is of a durable and reliable construction.

15 An even further object of the present invention is to provide a new credit information storage and transferring device which is susceptible of a low cost of manufacture with regard to both materials and labor, and which accordingly is then susceptible of low prices of sale to the consuming public, thereby making such 20 credit information storage and transferring device economically available to the buying public.

Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new credit information storage and transferring device which 25 provides in the apparatuses and methods of the prior art some of the advantages thereof, while simultaneously overcoming some of the disadvantages normally associated therewith.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a 30 new credit information storage and transferring device for using one debit card for multiple credit accounts.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new credit information storage and transferring device which includes a debit card having a magnetic strip thereon for removably storing information. A memory means stores information. A plurality of input actuators inputs and retrieves information. A display displays the information inputted. A control for processing data is operationally coupled to the memory means, the input actuators and the display. A writing means writes selected information on the magnetic strip and is adapted for replacing information on the magnetic strip with a newer set of information.

The writing means is operationally coupled to the control. Wherein sets of information from multiple credit accounts may be stored in the memory means so that the credit account information may be selectively written on the debit card.

Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new credit information storage and transferring device that lets a user hold only one credit card type card while having the information from all of their credit cards.

Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new credit information storage and transferring device that lets a user select between different debit and credit accounts.

These together with other objects of the invention, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure. For a better understanding of the invention, its operating advantages and the specific objects attained by its uses, reference should be made to the accompanying drawings

and descriptive matter in which there are illustrated preferred embodiments of the invention.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

5

The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

10

Figure 1 is a schematic perspective view of a new credit information storage and transferring device according to the present invention.

15

Figure 2 is a schematic top view of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a schematic view of the present invention.

Figure 4 is a schematic top view of the present invention.

20

Figure 5 is a schematic side view of the present invention.

Figure 6 is a schematic side view of the present invention.

25

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to Figures 1 through 6 thereof, a new credit information storage and transferring device embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and generally designated by the reference numeral 30 10 will be described.

As best illustrated in Figures 1 through 6, the credit information storage and transferring device 10 generally comprises

a debit card 12 having a magnetic strip 14 thereon for removably storing information. A microchip 16, also conventionally known as a smart-chip, is positioned on the debit card 12 for identifying the debit card 12.

5

A reading means 18 reads the microchip 16. The reading means 18 is positioned in a first panel 20. The first panel 20 has a slot 22 therein for receiving the debit card 12 such that the debit card 12 may be positioned against the reading means 18. The 10 reading means 18 is adapted for reading a specific microchip 16.

A control 24 for processing data is positioned in a second panel 28. The control 24 is operationally coupled to the reading means 18. A display means 26 is mounted on a first side of the 15 second panel 28. The display means 26 is operationally coupled to the control 24 for displaying information. The display means 26 preferably comprises a liquid crystal display though any conventional display may be used. The second panel 28 is hingedly coupled to the first panel 20 such that the first panel 20 is 20 positionable over the display means 26.

A memory means 30 for storing sets of information is operationally coupled to the control 24 and is positioned in the second panel 28. The control 24 turns the memory means 30 on 25 when the microchip 16 is positioned in the slot 22. The memory means 30 is preferably conventional ROM type memory. The information may be displayed by the display means 26 in a grid pattern of sets as shown in Figure 4.

A writing means 32 for writing selected information on the magnetic strip is adapted for replacing information on the magnetic strip 14 with a newer set of information. The writing means 32 is positioned in the first panel 20 for coming into contact with the 5 magnetic strip when the debit card 12 is positioned in the slot 22. The writing means 32 is operationally coupled to the control 24. The writing means erases whatever information is placed on the magnetic strip and replaces it with the selected information.

10        A plurality of input actuators 34 are used for accessing information in the memory means 30 and for inputting information into the control 24 such that the information is stored in the memory means 30. The input actuators 34 are operationally coupled to the control 24. The input actuators 34 are positioned on a third 15 panel 36. The third panel 36 is hingedly coupled to the second panel 28.

Two versions of the device are shown. The first version is shown in Figures 1 and 2. The second version is shown in figures 4 20 through 6. The second version has the advantage of contoured panels which fit together to form a box shaped device for ease of storage and transportation.

In use, sets of information from multiple credit accounts may 25 be stored in the memory means. The credit account information may be selectively written on the debit card 12. This allows a person to carry one credit card type debit card which may be selectively programmed with the information from one of a plurality of credit accounts. The person uses the display and the 30 actuators to input the information from each of the credit accounts.

The debit card is placed in the slot. The reading means 18  
recognizes if the debit card 12 is the correct one for the device 10  
by reading the microchip 16. If the microchip 16 is recognized, the  
memory means 30 is turned on so that the credit account  
5 information may be accessed and transferred to the debit card 12.  
The debit card 12 is then read by conventional debit and credit card  
reading machines.

As to a further discussion of the manner of usage and  
10 operation of the present invention, the same should be apparent  
from the above description. Accordingly, no further discussion  
relating to the manner of usage and operation will be provided.

With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized  
15 that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the  
invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form,  
function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed  
readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all  
equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and  
20 described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by  
the present invention.

Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of  
the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous  
25 modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the  
art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction  
and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable  
modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the  
scope of the invention.